(b) if so, what are the particular of DESU officers found involved in the theft of power and undermetering so far; and

(c) what action has been taken against the officials and other persons found involved there in?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The electricity bills in the case of 63 officers of DESU *prima facie* showed low consumption of electricity. The Vigilance Department of Delhi Electricity Supply Undertaking, which investigated the matter, has concluded that in the case of 20 officers electric meters were not found in order and there was under-billing. DESU has therefore ordered recovery of a total amount of Rs. 17,883 from the officers concerned. A total amount of Rs. 7,048 has already been recovered, and the balance amount is also being realised. In addition, DESU has started disciplinary action against two officers. In another case, relating to a third officer, an FIR has been lodged with the police for theft of electricity and a case has been registered. In the remaining cases of 43 officers, the Vigilance Department of DESU has come to the conclusion that there has been no under-billing.

Telephones for retired government officials

1398. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all retiring Government officials whose basic salary one year prior to retirement was Rs. 1,600 can now apply for telephone connection under a special category; and

(b) if so, how many such officers with or without official telephones at their residence have so far applied for telephone connections in Delhi under this category?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Television stringers accredited with Doordarshan Kendra

1399. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount paid per running foot to television stringers accredited to various Door-darshan Kendras for the total coverage of telecast;

(b) when the rates were fixed;

(c) whether it is a fact that stringers are not paid any extra amount for travelling, incidental charges and daily allowance on working and non-working days;

(d) whether Government are aware of the resentment among stringers in regard to the poor payment being made to them;

(e) whether Government propose to look into their working conditions to enhance their rates of remuneration;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(g) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The stringers accredited to various Doordarshan Kendras are paid for the rate of Rs. 8.00 per utilised feet for silent coverage and Rs. 10.00 per running feet for sound-synchronized coverage. These are all inclusive rates and no